

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 AID-05 EB-07
EPG-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CAB-02
COME-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CU-02 /122 W
-----007152 301209Z /45

R 301138Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4981
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 19135

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, FR, FT
SUBJECT: FRANCO-DJIBOUTI RELATIONS

1. IN CONVERSATIONS JUNE 29 WITH NEW QUAI DEPUTY
DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA (NON-FRANCOPHONE) JEAN GUEGUINOU
AND DJIBOUTI DESK OFFICER (FAURE), EMBOFF WAS TOLD
CONFIDENTIALLY THAT THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS AND
PROTOCOLS WERE SIGNED BY FRANCE AND DJIBOUTI ON
JUNE 27:

TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION;

COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
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MATTERS;

PROVISIONAL PROTOCOL FIXING THE PRINCIPLES OF
MILITARY COOPERATION;

AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE FUNCTIONING OF CIVIL
AVIATION SERVICES OF THE DJIBOUTI REPUBLIC;

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE EXECUTION OF THE
OPERATIONS OF THE DJIBOUTI TREASURY BY THE SERVICES
OF THE FRENCH TREASURY FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 27-DEC 31,
1977;

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF THE
PRIVILEGE OF MONETARY EMISSION OF THE DJIBOUTI
REPUBLIC; AND

AGREEMENT ON PUBLIC PROPERTY MATTERS.

2. CONVERSATIONS WILL BE RENEWED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING AND SIGNING OTHER TEXTS
NECESSARY TO THE LAUNCHING OF FRANCO-DJIBOUTI COOPER-
ATION, NOTABLY THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS:

CONVENTION CONCERNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PERSONNEL;

CULTURAL CONVENTION;

TRAINING AGREEMENT;

ACCORD CONCERNING TRANSITORY MEASURES IN
JUDICIAL MATTERS; AND
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EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONCERNING FISCAL AND CUSTOMS
ARRANGEMENTS APPLICABLE TO FRENCH FINANCIAL
SUPPORT.

3. THE MILITARY COOPERATION PROTOCOL IS THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT ACCORD IN QUAI EYES. THE FRENCH ARE TO
PROVIDE MILITARY TRAINING AND "DEFENSE AGAINST
AGRESSION". CURRENT PLANS ARE TO REDUCE OVER THE NEXT
FEW WEEKS THE CURRENT FRENCH TROOP STRENGTH OF 6,000
MEN TO ABOUT 4,000. ALL FRENCH GENDARMES WILL BE
WITHDRAWN AND THE PRESENT DJIBOUTI GENDARME FORCE OF
L,500 GRADUALLY WILL BE INCREASED TO 2,500 OR 3,000.

4. DJIBOUTI'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, TOO, CONCERN THE
FRENCH GREATLY. THE QUAI CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THE
FRENCH WILL NOT LONG CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DJIBOUTI TO
THE TUNE OF ABOUT \$200 MILLION ANNUALLY. THE CUTTING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 19135

OF THE ADDIS-DJIBOUTI RAILWAY (WHICH THE QUAI SAYS
IS SEVERED IN LL PLACES AND CANNOT POSSIBLY BE PUT
INTO SERVICE BEFORE A YEAR) HAS ADDED TO THE FINANCIAL
BURDEN. THE FRENCH HOPE TO EXPEDITE THE DRAFTING
OF A NUMBER OF PROJECTS TO SUBMIT TO THE SAUDIS AND
OTHERS FOR FINANCING, BUT ARE DISCOURAGED BY THE
TOTAL LACK OF LOCAL EXPERTISE TO DRAW UP AND EXECUTE
PROJECTS.

5. COMMENT: THE FRENCH ARE BREATHING A SIGH OF RELIEF
THAT THE FINAL STEP TO INDEPENDENCE WAS TAKEN WITHOUT
MAJOR INCIDENT AND THAT FRANCE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM ITS
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LAST COLONY ON THE CONTINENT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

WITH CONSIDERABLE GRACE. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE EVENTS IN THE HORN WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE FRENCH FORCES IN FIGHTING. ALREADY QUAI OFFICIALS ARE TALKING IN TERMS OF ONE AND A HALF YEARS, RATHER THAN THE THREE, FOUR OR FIVE YEARS ONLY RECENTLY MENTIONED AS THE LIKELY PERIOD IN WHICH THE FRENCH MILITARY WOULD REMAIN IN DJIBOUTI.

6. THE MOST IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PEACE IN THE REGION IS INCREASINGLY SEEN BY THE QUAI TO BE FROM SOMALIA. THE FRENCH NOTE THE GROWING SOMALI-BACKED DISSIDENCE IN THE OGADEN AND CONSIDER THAT IT MAY REFLECT A SOMALI JUDGMENT THAT TIME IS NO LONGER ON SOMALIA'S SIDE, THAT GROWING SOVIET MATERIAL SUPPORT EVENTUALLY WILL MAKE ETHIOPIA AN UNBEATABLE ENEMY, AND THAT INCREASED PRESSURE ON ETHIOPIA IS REQUIRED NOW IF SOMALI IRREDENTISM IS NOT TO BE FRUSTRATED.

7. TO SUM UP THE MOOD IN PARIS, THE FRENCH RECOGNIZE THAT DJIBOUTI'S SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE TO INDEPENDENCE PROVIDED THEM ONLY A MOMENTARY, IF SATISFYING, RESPITE. BUT THEY ALSO CONSIDER THAT INDEPENDENCE HAS SHARPLY REDUCED FRANCE'S SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUTURE EVENTS IN THE AREA.
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